

1 REMARKS

2 Status of the Claims

3 Claims 1-6, 8-25, 27-34, and 38 remain pending in the present application, Claims 7 and 26
4 having been previously canceled, and Claims 36 and 37 having been canceled in the present response.
5 Applicants have amended Claim 33 to more clearly distinguish over the cited art and Claim 38 to
6 change the dependency.

7 Allowable Subject Matter

8 The Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-6, 8-13, 14-25, 27-28, and 29-32 are allowed. The
9 Examiner has objected to Claims 37 and 38 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has
10 noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the
11 limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12 Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

13 Claims 33-34, and 36 are rejected as anticipated by James et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,179,713,
14 hereinafter referred to as "James." The Examiner asserts that James teaches all of the elements of
15 Claim 33. Under the section entitled, "Response to Arguments in the Office Action," the Examiner
16 has asserted that applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of independent Claim 33 have been
17 fully considered, but are not persuasive. The Examiner pointed out that in the previous Office
18 Action, dependent Claims 37 and 38 were objected to, but instead of amending Claim 33 to include
19 the recitation of these claims, applicants instead canceled Claim 35, and amended Claim 33 to include
20 the limitation of Claim 35 and 26. As a result, the Examiner noted that Claim 33 remains rejected
21 over James, which implements and teaches a system and method for players to host and join new
22 instances of multiplayer online electronic games, as recited in Claim 33.

23 Accordingly, applicants have now amended Claim 33 to include the recitation of Claim 37, to
24 which the Examiner has objected, as well as the recitation of Claim 36, from which Claim 37
25 depends. Claim 33 as amended now also recites the steps of "*sending an electronic invitation to a*
26 *player being invited by the host player to join the chat session; and producing an audible*
27 *announcement with said at least one sound transducer apprising a recipient of the electronic*
28 *invitation that the host player has invited the recipient to join the chat session.*" Applicants have thus
29 canceled Claim 36 and claim 37.

30 Independent Claim 33 has now been placed in condition for allowance.

1 In view of the Remarks set forth above, it will be apparent that the claims remaining in this
2 application define a novel and non-obvious invention, and that the application is in condition for
3 allowance and should be passed to issue without further delay. Should any further questions remain,
4 the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

5 Respectfully submitted,

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11 RMA/SKM:lrg
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13 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed
14 envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 8, 2005.

15 Date: February 8, 2005

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